Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OPIC-03 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 XMB-02 /096 W

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R 211604Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1827

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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FOR AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EAGR, PO

SUBJ: RURAL LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 996

1. SEVERAL REPORTS HAVE REACHED THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE THAT FARMS IN THE ALENTEJO AREA ARE BEING ASSIGNED UNEMPLOYED WORKERS BY THE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION. ONE FARMER WITH EXTENSIVE HOLDINGS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED NINE WORKERS WHILE ANOTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FARMER IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TWO WORKERS.

- 2. LATE LAST SUMMER WHEN LABOR AGREEMENTS WERE NEGOTIATED IN THE BEJA AND EVORA DISTRICTS, UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WERE ASSIGNED TO LARGE FARMS. AT THIS WAS DURING THE HARVEST PERIODS, THESE WORKERS COULD BE PROFITABLY EMPLOYED. THIS IS NOT THE CASE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR BUT THE WORKERS MAY NOT BE DISMISSED.
- 3. AN OFFICIAL OF THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT TOLD THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE THAT IN THE ALENTEJO FARMERS WERE BEING FORCED TO UTILIZE WOMEN TO WEED GRAING CROPS, A PRACTICE THAT HAD NOT BEEN USED FOR 10-15 YEARS. AN AERIAL COMPANY HAS A FLEET OF PLANES AND HELICOPTERS WHICH ARE NOT BEING USED TO APPLY HERBICIDES BECAUSE OF "PRESSURE" AGAINST THE COMPANY AND THE FARMERS TO USE UNEMPLOYED LABOR IN THE AREA. HIS COMMENT WAS: QUOTE CAN YOU IMAGINE THE PROBLEM OF PRODUCING WHEAT WITH HIGH PRICED LAND LABOR WHEN THE WHEAT WILL BE SOLD AT A "FAIR PRICE" TO BE SET BY THE GOVERNMENT UNQUOTE. CARLUCCI

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TAGS: PINT, ELAB, EAGR, PO To: STATE

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